

Mr. Coonce began his career at the Naval Ordnance Depot in Louisville, Kentucky as an engineer working on underwater sensors and weapons. He moved to the great Commonwealth of Virginia in 1971 to work for the Naval Sea Systems Command and later for the Comptroller of the Navy on important budget issues. He was promoted to work for the Defense Comptroller, first as a budget analyst and, for the last sixteen years, to the Senior Executive Service, where he served as the Director for Military Construction and later Director for Revolving Funds. The quality of his work has been recognized by every Administration he has served, and he has received civil service awards too numerous to mention. Among the more significant, he has received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service, and the Vice President's National Performance Review Award.

Bill Coonce has served six Secretaries of Defense and six Department Comptrollers, as their key advisor on a range of budget issues. His recommendations on a wide range of vital issues were constantly sought and greatly helped the Department robustly defend the funding requirements that support U.S. forces and missions. He has a significant reputation as a budget-cutter across a wide range of national programs. Year in and year out, his wise counsel and sound advice produced the best possible, yet fiscally responsible, spending plans to satisfy the nation's national security needs.

Mr. Coonce brought exceptional insight and skill to the many diverse challenges presented to and undertaken by him. He displayed outstanding skills as a manager of budget analysts, inspiring work that was of the highest quality. He has been the Department of Defense's expert in budgeting for Military Construction, Base Realignment and Closure actions, Intelligence Community requirements, and the logistics infrastructure programs. On an extraordinary number of occasions, his sage advice assured the adoption of sound spending decisions that supported major Defense programs while remaining consistent with the President's priorities and prevailing perspectives in the Congress. His comprehensive knowledge and exceptional skills were immensely invaluable to a whole generation of Department of Defense leaders, to our Armed Forces, and to U.S. national security.

The senior U.S. leaders, both in the Congress and in the Defense Department, benefited enormously from his extensive knowledge, exceptional dedication, and wise judgment. His contributions and public service allowed the leaders of our nation to make the wisest possible allocation of declining defense resources while maintaining America's security. Mr. Coonce is retiring from a career of singular merit and has earned the profound gratitude of the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER  
BETTY ANN KRAHNKE

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 6, 2000*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and public servant of Montgomery County, MD. I praise the courage and determination of Montgomery County Councilmember Betty Ann Krahnke. She has served with distinction for many years, both in and out of public office. Betty Ann Krahnke is a role model for our community, and our Nation.

I am extremely proud of Betty Ann's integrity, commitment, and legislative contributions, particularly on behalf of domestic violence victims. She has spearheaded cell phone programs for domestic violence victims and convinced the State of Maryland to implement an automated victim notification program in Montgomery County. For her leadership on victims' rights issues, Betty Ann has received the 1998 Governor's Victim Assistance Award and the 1998 leadership award from the Montgomery County Against Domestic Abuse task force. In addition, the Montgomery County Civic Federation awarded its most prestigious award, the Distinguished Public Service Citation, to Betty Ann.

During her current battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Betty Ann has shown tremendous stamina and strength of character. She and her family have exhibited incredible bravery during this most difficult time. I have watched Betty Ann with inspiration as she continued her unfaltering commitment to Montgomery County. I praise her determination to keep making positive contributions to her community.

I have admired Betty Ann for many years as a leader and public servant, and most importantly, as a friend. I send my heartfelt appreciation for her hard work and dedicated service.

CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ARMENIA CONSULATE GENERAL  
IN LOS ANGELES

**HON. JAMES E. ROGAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 6, 2000*

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, representing the Republic of Armenia proudly in the western United States is the Consulate General, in Los Angeles—not far from my home district.

In honor of the consulate's fifth anniversary in Los Angeles, I ask my colleagues here today to join me in saluting not just this accomplishment, but the freedom this nation has cherished for nearly a decade.

There is indeed a freedom in Armenia to which I can attest. Not long ago, I spent nearly a week in Armenia. And I am proud to say that the spirit of democracy we hold so dear

in the United States has taken an equally deep root in the Republic of Armenia.

Despite cultural and political annihilation at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, the Armenian people today thrive at home and abroad. Armenian-Americans have contributed greatly to our community while maintaining a strong cultural heritage. I am especially proud to claim the same home district as the largest population of Armenians in America.

Representing this community, and the Republic is the Consulate General in Los Angeles. The professional staff in this office is responsible for consular and diplomatic affairs—acting as liaison between the Republic and governments at the local, state, and national level. Their efforts guarantee that Armenia will continue to thrive: leading the region in the growth of industry, education, the arts and technology.

Mr. Speaker, five short years ago, the Republic of Armenia established a diplomatic foundation in Los Angeles, reaching out to the surrounding Armenian-American community and the public. This work was led by the Honorable Armen Baibourian who is now serving as the Deputy Foreign Minister in Yerevan, the Armenian Capital. His successor, The Honorable Armen Melkonian is following in this tradition, proudly representing the Republic of Armenia in the United States. I am proud not just to call these two leaders colleagues, but to call them friends.

I ask my colleagues here today to join me along with the Armenian-American community in celebration of the Consulate General's fifth anniversary in Los Angeles, and in tribute to Armenia's decade of freedom. Let us work to keep the light of freedom lit in Armenia and around the globe.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 5, THE SENIOR  
CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO WORK  
ACT OF 1999

**HON. MAX SANDLIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 6, 2000*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5, the Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act of 1999. This legislation will finally repeal the outdated and unreasonable Social Security earnings limit that has penalized seniors for working beyond the age of 65 by reducing their monthly Social Security benefit. H.R. 5 is good for America's seniors and good for the economy.

The Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act is about basic fairness. There are numerous reasons seniors may choose to continue working past the age of 65. Many seniors would like to retire but have to continue working simply to make ends meet. It is outrageous that the government penalizes these individuals for trying to support their most basic needs. Other seniors may continue to work simply for the pleasure and pride they take in contributing a lifetime's worth of skills and knowledge to their chosen profession. The government should not deprive industry of this dedicated, skilled, and resourceful population of workers. Regardless of the reason, America's seniors deserve the benefits they earn whether or not

they choose to continue working beyond the national retirement age.

I became a cosponsor of H.R. 5 last year because I feel so strongly about the merits of this legislation. According to the Social Security Administration, over 800,000 seniors lose part or all of their Social Security benefits because of the earnings limit. With the retirement of the massive baby boom generation fast-approaching, the number of seniors affected by this penalty will increase significantly over the next decade. Today, we have the opportunity to prevent that injustice.

Mr. Speaker, my district has the good fortune of holding a large population of hard-working senior citizens who stand to benefit from the repeal of the Social Security earnings limit. The communities and businesses in the First Congressional District of Texas stand to benefit as well. Retaining skilled retirees is important in meeting today's workforce needs, and Congress needs to eliminate the very real financial disincentive seniors face if they want to continue working beyond retirement age. This is a win-win situation and deserves the full support of this Congress. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5 to end the earnings penalty once and for all.

THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS TO THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF HEALTH AND  
SCIENCE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 6, 2000*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lead the citizens of the Thirtieth Congressional District as we pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions African-Americans have made in the advancement of health and science in America. I look forward to an equally storied future.

Beginning with Imhotep, who many call the father of medicine, blacks have led the world in medical and scientific innovation. In Ancient Egypt, Imhotep diagnosed and treated over 200 diseases and illnesses, including tuberculosis, appendicitis, and arthritis. As early as 2850 B.C., Imhotep was performing surgery, and documenting the roles of the human circulatory system and vital organs.

Like their ancestors in Africa, blacks in America have historically and consistently enhanced the quality of life through scientific discoveries and medical breakthroughs. In the 1860's Dr. Alexander T. Augusta was named head of a Union Army hospital during the Civil War. Also during the Civil War, one of my predecessors in the U.S. Congress, Ohio Senator Benjamin Wade, an abolitionist, gave Rebecca Lee a scholarship which enabled her to become the first African-American woman doctor.

Following the example of Doctors Augusta and Lee, African-Americans have continued to lead the nation in advancing health care. Institutions like the Howard University College of Medicine and Meharry Medical College trained physicians who have saved the lives of thousands of African-Americans, many of whom

had no other access to medical treatment. Black doctors have blazed trails throughout our history, including Dr. Charles Parvis, who helped keep the Howard Medical School open by declining to accept a salary and later became the first African-American to run a civilian hospital, Freedman's Hospital right here in Washington, D.C.

For too long medical history did not include the legendary contributions of African-American health care professionals, who, despite serious obstacles and institutionalized racism, soared to amazing heights of success. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, without access to the benefit of X-rays, breathing apparatus, or blood transfusions, performed the first successful open heart operation. Dr. Louis Wright is credited with the development of the neck brace. Dr. Charles R. Drew developed a critical method of preserving blood, and Dr. Ben Carson performed the first successful separation of Siamese twins joined at the back of the head. Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. performed the first surgical implantation of the device that corrects arrhythmia in the human heart. Today, our nation can reflect with great pride on the contributions of former Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan and former Surgeon Generals Dr. Joycelyn Elders and Dr. David Satcher.

Just as in the health care field, African-Americans have led the way in other areas of science. History is replete with the inventions and creations of African-American scientists. George Washington Carver revolutionized the agricultural foundation of this country through his discoveries—300 new uses for the peanut, 118 from the sweet potato, and 60 from pecans. Elijah "The Real" McCoy, helped make the industrial revolution possible by developing an oiling device for machines. Garrett Morgan's inventions still impact us today, in the form of the gas mask and the traffic light.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on about the contributions of African-Americans to health and science, including Lewis Latimer and his electrical filament, Benjamin Banneker and the first striking clock and space pioneers, Guy Bluford, Ronald McNair, and Mae Jemison. The world would certainly not be as prepared to enter the new millennium if it had not been for the contributions of these outstanding Americans. And the scientists, health care professionals, and inventors I have mentioned barely scratch the surface. Scores of other African-Americans fought against the odds to dramatically change the scientific frontier. I join the citizens of America in paying tribute to the African-American legacy, and as we look to the future, I am proud to stand on the shoulders of these great Americans.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 6, 2000*

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to congratulate the township of Cheltenham on its 100th anniversary. On March 5, 1900 the first Board of Commissioners of the newly in-

corporated Cheltenham Township met and formed what has become a model township government in Montgomery County.

The township of Cheltenham has many achievements of which to be proud. Cheltenham's roots extend to the 1600s when Quakers settled the area just outside Philadelphia. The settlers primarily farmed the land, with several mills dotting the landscape as well. The 1850s brought rapid change to Cheltenham with the advent of the railroad. Philadelphians soon began settling in the township and commuting to Philadelphia.

Cheltenham can take pride in its municipal works. Not only did the township institute fire hydrants and streetlights as early as 1901, but also established a police force, a Board of Health, a garbage collection system, and a sewer system. The township set aside parkland and encouraged the formation of the Cheltenham Township Fire Department from a conglomeration of volunteer fire companies. Cheltenham's police force won recognition for innovation crime solving techniques and use of technology in 1916. This innovative and vision has continued ever since and Cheltenham remains one of the most progressive townships in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I am proud to represent such an extraordinary town. This anniversary should serve as a long-standing tribute to the hard work and dedication for all who have made the Cheltenham Township the wonderful place it is.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION  
OF MUSIC EDUCATORS

**HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 6, 2000*

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution recognizing the value of music education and honoring music educators across our nation who contribute so much to the intellectual, social, and artistic development of our children.

Music education has touched the lives of many young people in my state of Indiana. It has taught them team work and discipline, while refining their cognitive and communications skills. Music education enables Hoosier children with disabilities to participate more fully in school while motivating at-risk students to stay in school and become active participants in the educational process.

Consider the experience of Patrick, a young man in Muncie, Indiana. A couple of years ago, Patrick was an angry teenager who was having trouble in school and with the law. His father had left home years before. His family tried very hard to reach him but it seemed nothing could help him get his life turned around.

Knowing that Patrick loved music, his grandmother suggested he audition for the White River Youth Choir. With the encouragement of his mother and probation officer, he tried out and was accepted. Patrick has been a member of the choir ever since. He faithfully attends practice and has even toured with the choir outside of the country. The choir director,